

Yucca program altogether, its funding, licensing and design."

Senator WYDEN has said: "I don't see that (Yucca Mountain will reopen). I think that there'll be an effort to look at new technologies and on-site storage and a whole host of approaches, but I don't think that's going to happen."

So Senator WYDEN is accepting this in Hanford, a mile from the Columbia River.

Senator MERKLEY has been quiet, as far as we could find from the Google search pairing his name and any Yucca Mountain comments.

Now, lest people think I'm picking on the Northwest, let me go to my home State of Illinois. So one facility, Zion Nuclear Power Station, it's a decommissioned plant but there's still 65 casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste, versus Yucca Mountain, which has zero.

The waste at Zion is stored above the ground; the waste at Yucca Mountain would be a thousand feet below the surface. The waste at Zion is 5 feet above the water table; the waste at Yucca Mountain would be a thousand feet. The waste at Yucca Mountain is 100 miles from the Colorado River; the waste from Zion is 1,300 feet from Lake Michigan.

I mean, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that Yucca Mountain is safer than storing high-level nuclear waste next to Lake Michigan.

So what have our Senators said?

Well, let's start with Senator DURBIN. He's quoted as saying: "There are a lot of options out there. But I have supported Yucca in the past, and I am not walking away from that. I just think we need to consider other options as well."

I want him to obviously continue to consider Yucca Mountain.

Senator KIRK has said: "I think in the end Congress needs to fight and win the battle to build the Yucca Mountain facility so that we can store nuclear waste 1,000 feet below the surface."

I agree.

Senator KOHL is quoted as saying: "This site, on the Nevada nuclear test site"—that's what people don't know is that Yucca Mountain is also the Nevada nuclear test site. That's where we tested the nuclear bombs during the nuclear arms race and the nuclear age. So Senator KOHL is correct in saying: "This site, on the Nevada nuclear test site, is certainly safer than leaving the waste at 132 sites nationwide, sites scattered around the country that were never designed to be a permanent solution."

Senator JOHNSON is silent.

CURRENCY MANIPULATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the bipartisan majority in the Senate for passing legislation to take on currency

manipulators, and to urge our House of Representatives and our House Republican leadership to do the same—to allow a stand-alone, up-or-down vote on currency manipulation legislation—here in the House of Representatives. In a period of congressional gridlock, we must seize every bipartisan opportunity available to us not only to create jobs, but also to protect the good-paying jobs we already have.

As the Senate demonstrated this week by passing the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, the time is now to take advantage of bipartisan cooperation. Sixteen Republican Senators joined 47 Democratic Senators in voting for this legislation to counter an unfair trade practice that is hampering our economic recovery.

In February, Congressman SANDER LEVIN, TIM RYAN, and TIM MURPHY introduced the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. H.R. 639 has garnered 225 bipartisan cosponsors, more than enough secure House passage. This would allow the Department of Commerce to counter imports made cheaper by currency manipulation with a corresponding tariff. A nearly identical bill passed the House of Representatives last year by a strong, overwhelming bipartisan vote of 348-79, both Republicans and Democrats.

When countries are allowed to keep the value of their currencies artificially low and, in turn, the prices of their exports into the United States, American companies and American workers face an unfair disadvantage. Forced to compete on an unlevel playing field where competitors are able to maintain a permanent 30 to 40 percent-off sale on their products, American jobs are lost and our trade deficit grows with countries like China.

The Economic Policy Institute recently released the study, and it showed that in the last 10 years the U.S. lost 2.8 million jobs, including nearly 62,000 jobs in my home State of Indiana as a result directly of the expanding trade deficit with China. Many experts agree: Countries like China that manipulate their currencies are damaging the U.S. economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently expressed concern "that the Chinese currency policy is blocking what might be a more normal recovery process in the global economy," and he stated that "it is to some extent hurting the recovery."

Chairman Bernanke is tasked directly with the responsibilities of serving and protecting America's economic interests. He recognizes the impact that Chinese currency manipulation is having on our economy. It is long past time for this House of Representatives to do the same.

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After the Senate expressed interest in considering S. 1619, China immediately went on the offensive, issuing threats and saying such legislation could spark a trade war. Though Chi-

na's comments are disappointing, they are not unexpected, and Congress should not shy away from doing what is in America's best interests. That is our job. China's unfair currency policies have cost millions of Americans their jobs, and I believe inaction on this issue is dangerous to our economic recovery and continues to put at risk hundreds of thousands of additional American jobs.

When I travel around my district, I hear from small businesses and manufacturers on this issue. And they never ask for Congress to guarantee their success. All they want is a fair fight, for the rules to be the same. And I believe given a level playing field, American businesses will win every single time.

Once again, to our House leadership, please allow bipartisan legislation addressing currency manipulation to come before the full House of Representatives for a standalone, up-or-down vote. Who are you going to stand with, the Chinese government or American businesses and American workers? The American people want a vote now and deserve a vote now.

REPUBLICAN ANTI-CHOICE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, we are now more than 275 days into this 112th Congress, and the GOP leadership has put forward zero American jobs bills and outright rejected consideration of President Obama's jobs proposal. So if jobs aren't at the heart of the Republican Tea Party's agenda, what is?

Passage of anti-labor legislation to weaken the rights of middle class workers and encourage the shipping of jobs overseas. Check.

Passage of anti-middle class legislation to raise taxes on hardworking families. Check.

Passage of anti-environment legislation to roll back clean air standards. Check.

Passage of anti-education legislation to slash Pell Grants for middle-income students to afford college. Check.

And later today, passage of its seventh anti-women's health measure. Today's bill will put the government in the middle of American's health choices and allow hospitals to refuse life-saving treatment to women.

Every day it feels more and more like the movie "Groundhog Day." I wake up hoping it will be something different, but it's the same scene played over and over and over. The Republican Tea Party agenda stuck on repeat might satisfy the extreme right wing, but it neither satisfies nor helps hardworking Americans.

It is time for the GOP leadership to learn a lesson from "Groundhog Day"—the only way out of it is to do better.

The American people don't want token legislation, extreme partisanship, or sideshow politics. They want